



Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

On behalf of the FM Area Foundation, I am writing to thank you for your work on behalf of North Dakota and express our strong support for House Bill 1143.

The FM Area Foundation is located in Fargo, and our primary mission is to support community vitality through philanthropy, providing grants and resources to nonprofits that address critical community needs. Since inception, our community foundation has granted nearly \$100 million into our nonprofit sector. Each year, we help facilitate funding for programs that support thousands of North Dakotans in need, including those facing food insecurity.

House Bill 1143 represents a vital investment in our state's ability to combat hunger by establishing a food distribution facility. This initiative would directly support the infrastructure needed to ensure food reaches those who need it most, helping organizations like the Great Plains Food Bank continue their essential work. As the largest hunger-relief organization in the state, the Great Plains Food Bank has built a strong, diverse network over the past 40 years, distributing food to every county in North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.

The need for food assistance continues to rise, and our ability to meet this growing demand depends on strengthening our distribution capabilities. The proposed one-time funding of \$10 million will provide critical resources for site acquisition, construction, and logistical improvements, ensuring food gets to families, seniors, and children facing hunger. With a required one-to-one match from nonstate sources, this funding will leverage private and philanthropic dollars to maximize its impact. This investment aligns with the mission Great Plains "Ending Hunger Together: Today, Tomorrow, and for Good" campaign, which recognizes that hunger is a solvable issue. By expanding infrastructure, increasing statewide food distribution, and ensuring long-term sustainability, we can build a future where no North Dakotan goes hungry.

North Dakota's nonprofits impact the lives of our citizens every day. From providing essential services that address health and education needs to fostering economic growth, nonprofits represent 15 percent of the state's private-sector payroll, supporting over 54,000 jobs. Supporting HB 1143 is not just an investment in food security—it is an investment in our state's economic stability and quality of life.

The FM Area Foundation respectfully asks for your support of HB 1143. By passing this bill, you will help strengthen North Dakota's hunger relief infrastructure, ensuring that food reaches those in need efficiently and effectively. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to the well-being of all North Dakotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Wilkie".

Executive Director, FM Area Foundation



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